

PATENT

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: BAL-99A

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re. Application:	Barry J. Marshall, et al.)	Art Unit:	1651
)		
Serial No.:	09/977,555)	Examiner:	Guo, Lynda T.
)		
Filed:	October 15, 2001)	Acct. No.:	04-1403
)		
Title:	Method for Detection of Urease and)		
	Method for Using Same)		

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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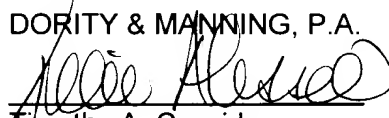
LETTER

Applicants filed an Amendment in the above-captioned application on March 17, 2003. The Amendment was filed with a signed cover sheet. It was recently discovered, however, that the Amendment was not signed by Applicants' attorney. Thus, included with this letter is a signed copy of the Amendment. Applicants hereby ratify the Amendment previously filed.

If a one-month extension of time is necessary for the Amendment to be considered, Applicants hereby petition for the extension and request the extension be charged to Deposit Account No. 04-1403.

Respectfully submitted,

DORITY & MANNING, P.A.


Timothy A. Cassidy
Registration No. 38,024

P. O. Box 1449
Greenville, SC 29602-1449
Phone: (864) 271-1592
Facsimile: (864) 233-7342

Date: _____

3/19/03

WELLINGTON M. MANNING, JR.
JULIAN W. DORITY
JAMES M. BAGARAZZI
RICHARD M. MOOSE
STEPHEN E. BONDURA
TIMOTHY A. CASSIDY
JEFFREY M. KARMILOVICH
TIM F. WILLIAMS
TIMOTHY D. ST. CLAIR
FRANCES BARNES ELLIOTT
J. BENNETT MULLINAX
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BERNARD S. KLOSOWSKI, JR.
WILLIAM M. SIMMONS
STEVEN R. LE BLANC
DAVID M. SIGMON
TARA E. AGNEW†
CHRISTINA MANGELSEN*
HARRY E. MOOSE, JR.*
JENNIFER L. VAN DER HORST*

*PATENT AGENT
†NEW YORK ONLY



DORITY & MANNING
ATTORNEYS AT LAW, P.A.

ONE LIBERTY SQUARE
55 BEATTIE PLACE, SUITE 1600
GREENVILLE, SC 29601 USA

TELEPHONE (864) 271-1592
FACSIMILE (864) 233-7342
www.dority-manning.com

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FIRST CLASS MAIL CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

In re Application of: Barry J. Marshall, et al.

Entitled: "Method for the Detection of Urease and Method for
Using Same"

Serial No.: 09/977,555

File Date: October 15, 2001

Our Ref.: BAL-99A (16843A)

Date of Deposit: March 19, 2003

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PATENT

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: BAL-99A (16843A)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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AMENDMENT

In response to the Office Action dated December 17, 2002, please amend the above-captioned application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1-22 to read as follows (marked changes included as Appendix A):

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. (Amended) A method for detecting the presence of urease in a gastrointestinal system comprising:
- providing a sample of gastric material from a patient;
 - contacting said gastric material with a first powdered composition comprising urea, said urea being converted into ammonia when contacted with urease;
 - thereafter contacting said gastric material with a second composition comprising an indicator, wherein, when ammonia is present, said indicator indicates the presence of ammonia thereby indicating the presence of urease in said gastric material.
2. (Amended) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein said urea has a mean particle size of less than 0.1 mm.

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